

**CHRONO**OLL 84-1568  
17 April 1984**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD****SUBJECT: HFA Staff Briefing on the Middle East**

1. On 17 April 1984, House Foreign Affairs Committee staffers Thomas Smeeton and Marian Chambers along with George Stephanopoulos of Rep. Edward Feighan's (D., OH) staff and Bob Dobeck of Rep. Larry Smith's (D., FL) staff were briefed on Middle East drug trafficking patterns. The briefers were [redacted] of DDI/OGI/ISID. Briefing material was held to the SECRET level. [redacted]

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2. Ms. Chambers explained that the House Foreign Affairs Narcotics Task Force was planning to hold public hearings sometime between May and July 1984 on Middle Eastern involvement in the drug trade. The briefing consisted of a general overview of the flow of drugs from Pakistan-Afghanistan through the Middle East to Europe and the US. The entire cycle from the growing of crops to the manufacture and distribution of narcotics was discussed. The Hill staffers were particularly interested in the role played by Syria and were told that there is insufficient evidence to depict Syria as an increasingly major player in the drug ring, although Syrians have long participated as traffickers. The briefers agreed to evaluate the content of press articles (attached) dealing with the Middle East and drugs and will provide comments in the near future. The briefers were unable to suggest possible witnesses to testify at the planned public hearings. [redacted]

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**Attachment: As Stated****Distribution:**

1 - OLL Record Copy

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OLL/LD [redacted] (20 Apr 84)

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